

REAL WINS IN MOSCOW

The Central Army Club basketball team has had an unsuccessful start in the semifinals tournament for the European Winners Cup. They met Madrid Real in Moscow and lost 90-93.

In the middle of the second period the Muscovites still led by 11 points. In this game they combined successful attacks and fine combinations with crude mistakes. Young Central Army Club players Gusev and Kuzmin (the latter scored 23 points) acquitted themselves splendidly, while one of the club's leaders, Nyshtkin, was below par.

The well-knit duo of Real-Volgograd players Delibasic and Dalipagic were the biggest headache to the hosts. The latter was the top Real scorer with 18 points.

On December 16 the Central Army Club will meet Olimpia in Milan.



Central Army Club and Madrid Real battling it out. Photo by Sergei Proskov



The USSR all-veteran squad is now priming for a game against their Canadian counterparts. Captured in the photos are one-time ace attacker Vyacheslav Stetsheynov and senior coach Konstantin Leliev. Photos by Igor Utkin



EUROPEAN CUP ROUND-UP

Moscow Spartak, having been beaten in Spain in the return UEFA Cup game by Valencia 0-2, have dropped out of the Cup. Only one—Kiev Dynamo—of the five Soviet clubs competing in the European Cup is still in the running. March next year the Kiev footballers will play in the quarterfinal games of the European Winners Cup.

In the other UEFA return games only two teams playing at home failed to make it into the next round of the competition—Yugoslav Sarejevo, (despite their victory over Belgium's Anderlecht 1-0, for the Belgians won the first game, 6-1) and West German Werder, who drew with Scotland's Dundee United, 1-1 (the first game ended in a win by Scotland 2-1).

In the UEFA Cup quarter-final Katernsautern, of West Germany, beat Spanish Sevilla 4-0 (the result of two games: 4-1). Romania's Universitatea beat French Bordeaux 2-0 in extra time (the result of two games is 2-1); Italy's Rome beat West German Cologne 2-0 (the result of two games is 2-1); Portugal's Benfica beat Zurich 4-0 (the result: 5-1); and Bohemians (Prague) were stronger than Switzerland's Servette, 2-1 (the result is 4-3).

Vladimir McMILLIN

EUROPE WINS THROUGH

Europe won a tennis match versus America, 7-5, in Barcelona. In the closing encounter at the Italian Open Lendl of Czechoslovakia and America's John McEnroe, the former won 2-6, 7-5, 6-2.



Hockey players on the eve of ice battles

December is a month of big hockey. The world's strongest teams will be taking part in various international tournaments, which are viewed by coaches as being a major stage in their preparations for the world and European championships, to be held in April-May in West Germany.

The world champions, the USSR, open their international calendar with games against Sweden on December 12 and 13 in Gävle and Stockholm for the "Rude právo" newspaper prize.

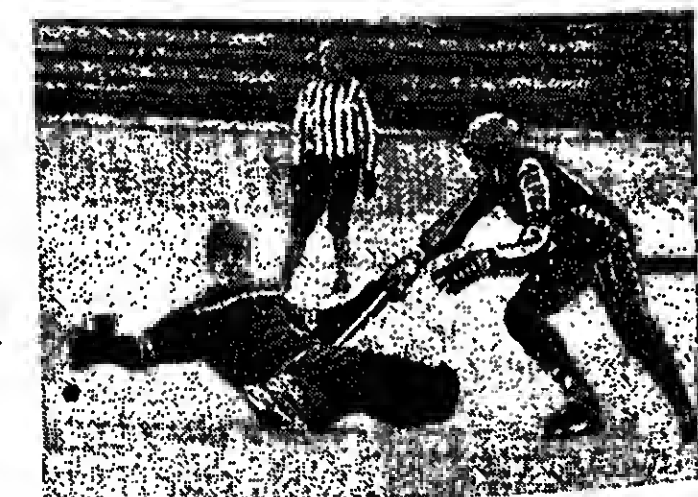
Later Moscow will host one of the most prestigious tournaments of world hockey—the "Izvestia" Prize (December 16-21). The prizes offered by the tournament will be contested by the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Finland, and West Germany. Fans will be particularly interested in two unusual tournament games on December 18 and 20. On these dates teams made up of famous Soviet and Canadian players of the past decade will be vying with each other.

After the "Izvestia" Prize a USSR national team will set off to play a new series of six games with leading NHL clubs. The games will be held at Canadian and American skating rinks in late December-early January.

All these tournaments will help coaches choose promising candidates for their national teams which are to compete in the world championship. As for USSR national team coaches Viktor Tikhonov and Vladimir Yurzhinov, they have invited 30 players to take part in these games, many of whom are well known to fans: goalkeepers Tretyak (Central Army Club) and Myshkin (Moscow Dynamo); defencemen Pervukhin and Bilyaletdinov (both from Moscow Dynamo), Fetisov, Kasatkin, Babinov, S. Gimaev, Zubkov, Stelnov, and Marlynov (all from CAC), Yevdokimov (Leningrad Army Club), attackers Krut'ko, Larionov, Gerasimov, Bykov, Vasil'yev, and Drozdetskiy (all from CAC), Shalimov, Shepelev, Kapustin, Kozhevnikov, and Tyumenev (all from Moscow Spartak), Malinov, V. Golikov, Yashin, Svetlov, and A. Semyonov (all from Moscow Dynamo), Skvortsov and Varnakov (both from Gorky Torpedo).

The coaches also have their eye on experienced defencemen Vasylyev, who has decided not to quit competitive hockey after all, and attackers Zhukov, Khomutov, and Balderis.

One more interesting fixture awaits hockey fans—the junior world championship to be held in Leningrad on December 25-January 4.



Moscow Dynamo test to Sverdlovsk Army Club, 3-4, at the start of a new hockey season to Moscow. Krasnyyevskiy Vostok now lead the standings, followed by Sverdlovsk Army Club and Kemerovo Kurzhane. Photo by Yuri Tolov

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In Western Europe, there is a growing movement to protest against the NATO decision to deploy new US medium-range nuclear missiles. In the photos: (left) a national march between Milan and Comiso in Rome. The demonstrators are protesting the Italian government's decision to build a base for American Cruise missiles in Sicily, and (right) a picket by the headquarters of the US Air Force Command in Turin for the city of Stuttgart. The West German peace champions demand American nuclear, chemical and biological weapons be removed from West German soil.

REAGAN'S PLANS SUFFER MAJOR SETBACK

Washington. The US Senate's Appropriations Committee has approved allocation of 998 million dollars in this fiscal year for the production and deployment of the first batch of the new MX intercontinental nuclear missile possessing first-strike capability. However, it simultaneously adopted E. Holt's amendment which forbids the administration to use this money until Congress has approved an alternative method for deploying the missiles. Although the funds for the MX programme have been earmarked, they are actually frozen, and the implementation of the programme has been postponed for an indefinite period.

DECISION BY POLISH GOVERNMENT

Warsaw. The Polish government has decided to review the scope and procedures involved in scientific and cultural cooperation with the United States. The PAP news agency has distributed a statement emphasizing that the special American services are constantly taking advantage of the scientific and cultural cooperation to collect intelligence and carry out subversion. The Polish side is compelled to take measures to protect its political, scientific, and cultural interests and to ensure the security of the Polish state.

Along other steps, a decision has been taken to suspend all forms of scientific and cultural cooperation with the United States.

THE NORTH ARCTIC ROUTE IS FIFTY YEARS OLD

The Arctic attracted several generations of discoverers, but it was only after the Great October Socialist Revolution of 1917 that large-scale development of the northern routes began. In December, 1932, the Soviet government set up the Chief Administration of the North Arctic Route, which boosted the Arctic transportation volumes dozens of times over.

From the steamship "Sibiriyev" which made a through voyage from the west to the east along the country's northern coast to the atomic icebreaker "Arktika" which reached the North Pole for the first time in history—such is the path travelled by the Soviet Arctic seafarers over the fifty years.

The North Arctic Route has become a most important seaway for the Norilsk metallurgy, for the Tyumen gasmo, Yamal timbermen, the geologists in Yakutia and Chukotka. But several decades ago the waterway was operational only during the short northern summer. Then it went dead for months, firmly ice-bound, before the first atomic icebreaker "Lenin" appeared and made it navigable until late autumn. The riches of the Arctic resources which remained inaccessible for ages became now included into this country's economic turnover.



Icebreaker "Vladivostok" with following ships.

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Round the Soviet Union

THE RUMY MACHINE-BUILDING ASSOCIATION IS BECOMING THE MAIN SUPPLIER OF THE COMPRESSOR UNITS FOR SUPERLONG HIGH-PRESSURE GAS PIPELINES. First units have already been delivered to the city of Togliatti, Russian Federation.

A CHAIN OF WATER RESERVOIRS HAS BEEN STARTED IN THE OBLAT RIVER BASIN IN THE LITHUANIAN REPUBLIC. THE FIRST MAN-MADE LAKE WILL ALLOW TWO-WAY REGULATION OF THE WATER REGIMEN IN THE FARMS OF FOUR LITHUANIAN DISTRICTS. A comprehensive land improvement programme provides for over 300 new reservoirs to be built in the republic by the end of the 1984-1985 five-year plan period which will allow to irrigate almost 150 thousand hectares of vegetable plantations, meadows and pastures.

THE AIR PURIFICATION SYSTEM INTRODUCED AT THE STARNANOV FERROUS-ALLOY PLANT, VOROSHILOVGRAD REGION, is capable of treating about 30 million cubic metres of gas-dust-air mixture daily, thus reducing air pollution to a minimum.

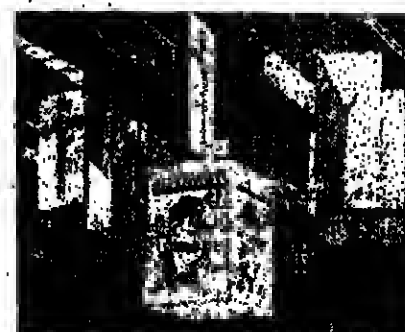
In the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee

At its latest regular meeting, the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee heard information about the course of the Soviet-American talks on limiting nuclear weapons in Europe and also about the state of the Soviet-American talks on limiting and reducing strategic weapons.

At the meeting, a report on the results of the official visit to Finland and on the meetings with Mauno Kelvijo, President of the Finnish Republic, and other Finnish leaders was made by Nikolai Tikhonov, Member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The Politbureau has approved the results of the talks and noted with satisfaction that they were held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding characteristic of the relations between the USSR and Finland.

Among the national economic problems examined by the Politbureau are proposals on measures for a further development of the network of enterprises for technical servicing of cars belonging to private citizens and for an increase in the production capacities in the manufacture of cars for these cars.

Relevant instructions were given to the Ministry of Automobile Industry and to a number of other ministries concerning a number of specific measures to be carried out in 1983-87.



'Izvestia' Tournament: each game a decider

The world's top ice-hockey nations the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Finland and West Germany have swung into action to the 16th International "Izvestia" Prize Tournament held on December 16-22 in Moscow's Palace of Sport of the Lenin Central Stadium, with the exception of Canada and the US who failed to put together teams because of the NHL engagements. Still a squad of NHL veterans arrived in Moscow, hoping to verbally represent North American hockey to two friendly with their Soviet counterparts.

The games, due on December 18 and 20, are being looked forward to since their participants will be former aces like McDonald, Mikovits, Bodie, Pirov, Vitkov, Ragulin, etc. The games' visit was arranged by George Smith, who a year ago had mounted a money-raising campaign for the Cup Canada as a replacement of a prize taken away from the USSR by NHL leaders.

In a hotly contested "Izvestia" Prize opening game between last year's world silver medalists Czechoslovakia and Sweden, the former won, 5-4. Several bad mistakes in our defence let us down. The Kronor head coach Anders Palmstrom complained to me: Still, I am hopeful we will avoid such mistakes in the future. As it is, it may say: I am indebted to their two "Rude právo" home opponents with the USSR that they are ready to contest the top awards in all the tournaments of the season, he stressed.

(Continued on page 5)

A tour of three courses

A tour of three courses ended in the confident win of the huge world champion Sergei Danilov, from Moscow. By winning the last stage at Königsee, West Germany, he totalled maximum 90 points, by far surpassing noted GDR luger Bernhard Glass, who scored 79 points.

With the speed of 213.08 km on boat

Carlo Bonomi, 42, of Italy, has set a new world speed record of 213.08 km on a motor boat with an outboard diesel engine in the Gulf of Venice. The former world mark was set by Britain's Christopher Koya two weeks ago on Coniston Water, who got up to a speed of 199.94 kph in a boat of the same class (with a diesel engine without restriction of the volume of the cylinders).

Vladimir McMILLIN

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Round the Soviet Union

● LONGER LIFE IS ASSURED FOR ROADS PAVED BY MATERIALS PREPARED FROM THE INDUSTRIAL WASTE OF MINERAL PROCESSING ENTERPRISES. The technology has been suggested by the Forest Academy in Leningrad. It will reduce consumption of crushed stone, cement and concrete.

● TWENTY SCHOOLCHILDREN IN THE KIRGHIZ CAPITAL OF FRUNZE HAVE BECOME MEMBERS OF THE SMALL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES WHICH HAS BEEN OPENED HERE ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS OF THE REPUBLIC. The young academicians were chosen from among the most active researchers in the schoolchildren's scientific circles and sections functioning at the Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Kirghiz SSR.

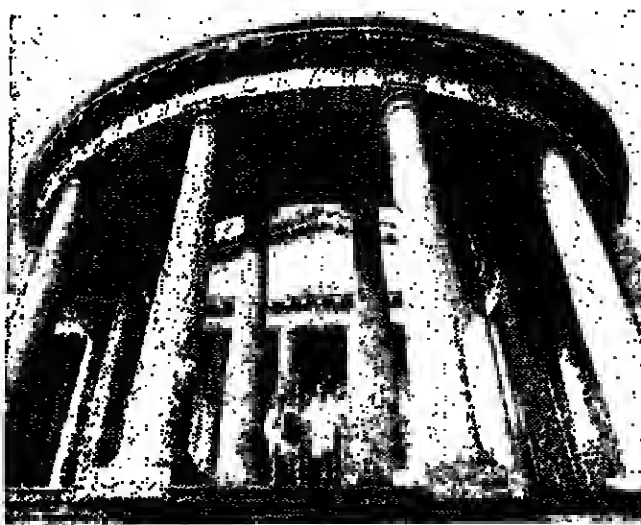
● THE LARGEST COLLECTION OF CHRYSANTHEMUMS NUMBERING 350 VARIETIES HAS STARTED TO BLOSSOM IN THE INDOOR BOTANICAL GARDENS IN the Moldavian capital of Kishinev.

● CHERKASSY WILL SOON SEE THE OPENING OF A NEW BUILDING OF THE LOCAL LORE MUSEUM. Its 28 rooms will house exhibits related to history and nature, art gallery, and will also display shows by professional and amateur artists of the region.

● ARTIFICIAL BREEDING OF VARIOUS SPECIES OF FRESH-WATER AND SEA FISH WAS STARTED AT THE OCHAKOV EXPERIMENTAL FISHERY, NIKOLAYEV REGION. The first tests with American salmon have been a success.

● A FRIENDSHIP SMELTING HAS BEEN MADE AT THE SECOND CONVERTER OF THE CHREPOVETS STEEL MILL IN THE VOLODOVA REGION OF THE Russian Federation, with the participation of steelmen from the GDR, Vietnam, Hungary, Cuba, Bulgaria, Romania, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia. The smelting was made 24 minutes quicker than usual and the quality of the metal was excellent.

Ambulance hurries to save your life



A team is hurrying off on call.



A team has brought a patient to hospital. Photos by V. Chernov

When it is a matter of life or death to a patient, time means everything. The sound of a wailing siren with an ambulance rushing along city streets always causes alarm.

An ambulance can be called by dialing "0-3", which is the same number wherever you go in this country. In Moscow, all the emergency calls go to one center where several dozen people on an duty round the clock. There are nearly seven hundred teams manned by most experienced doctors. They are located so that each team could reach any emergency case as quickly as possible.

The ambulance service is ready to give any type of emergency medical aid. Nearly every town brigade is specialized.

Many of the calls are from people suffering from cardiovascular disorders. Therefore, it is only natural that most of the teams in the Moscow emergency service specialize in these ailments, while others must deal with nerve diseases and injuries.

The ambulance doctors have saved many lives in seemingly hopeless cases. On the way to hospital, the doctors very often bring the patient back to life from a state of clinical death.

The cost of an emergency call varies from five to forty rubles. The patients never pay anything as these expenses are part of the state budget.

This first ambulance station in Moscow was set up in 1923. It was stationed in the former place of Count Sheremetev, which now houses the Moscow Institute of Emergency Medicine.

BELAZ LORRIES ON ASSEMBLY LINE

75- and 110-tonne quarry dumpers have been put into assembly-line production at the Byelorussian motorworks.

In view of the considerable weight and sizes of certain parts, the line's designers introduced a sophisticated complex, equipped with tools necessary for mechanized assembly.

In comparison to the previous assembly method, when quarry dumpers were assembled on building berths, the assembly line saves doubling the same parts, sometimes weighing dozens of tonnes to various corners of the shop. This sharply reduces the crane operation time, and disposes of multiple mechanization of the same labor-consuming processes. Labor productivity will grow considerably at this production stage. By the end of the five-year plan period (1981-85) the manufacture of this type of transport will more than double.

NO MORE DAMAGE FROM FLOODS

In Estonia, a public system has been built on the banks of the Enekegi River which used to be flooded every year, and the land reclamation experts have handed over to their customers (the experimental farmstead) the last fruits of the complex hydrotechnical structure spread over an area of more than a thousand hectares.

For a long time to come suitable for ploughing, the excavated operators had to shift two thousand million cubic metres of soil. Powerful dams have been put up to withstand the pressure of the flood water. Pumping stations are moving surplus water into an artificial reservoir. The pump has a two-way system of regulating the water supply and in case of need, it can water the fields.

The polder is paying off quickly. With all the trials of reclaimed land under cultivation in Estonia presenting practically no more problems, efforts are continuing to reclaim lands which were previously labeled unsuitable for intensive farming.

FLOATING DRILLING PLATFORMS IN THE CASPIAN

The name of the 26th CPSU Congress has been conferred on the floating drilling rig which has arrived at the Bay of Baku in Azerbaijan.

Built by the Astrakhan Ship-Building Association, it will drill the first exploration well in the Caspian with a shaft six thousand metres long. The greatest depth where the new installation can operate is 70 metres.

The rig has been designed to drill from one point, three wells—one vertical and two slanting.

In the next few days, it will start to operate off the Turkmenian shore.

This year, drilling rigs on the Caspian have drilled 20 thousand metres of rock, or twice as much as last year.

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

THIS COUNTRY'S ATOMIC POWER INDUSTRY

The United Power Grid of the USSR has received current from the first unit of the Smolensk atomic power station in the European part of this country, writes in IZVESTIA P. Sopotnikov, First Deputy Minister of the Power Industry and Electrification of the USSR.

The station's design capacity is 7,000 MW—enough to satisfy the power requirements of a large industrially developed region with its enterprises, foodstuffs-producing complexes, residential areas, hospitals, bakeries, theatres and sports facilities.

It seems improbable today, writes the minister, that when the world's first atomic power station was built near Moscow less than three decades ago, even experts were unable to forecast the present-day scales of the atomic power industry. It has begun to overtake the thermal power industry.

This can be attributed to the following. The European part of this country, which is known to be rich in organic fuels, has a power industry with atomic power plants accounting now for almost all the newly commissioned electric power capacities. In the present five-year plan period alone the increased nuclear power is comparable to the entire atomic power potential built during all the preceding years. The power stations' capacities grow and a number of atomic projects are under construction—the Smolensk, South Ukrainian, Zaporozhye, Rosolov, Bakhovo, Kalinin, Khamovitskiy and others. The Kurek, Rovno, Chernobyl and other atomic power stations are being expanded. Nuclear heat-and-power and solely heat plants are being designed and constructed.

SUBURBAN LIFE

Over the past few years, suburbs have become the object of sociological research due to growing urbanization.

writes in SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA V. Trushkov, D. Sc. (Philosophy). The statistics show that the belt of villages and small towns surrounding large industrial centres grows both in population and territory faster than the centres themselves.

A sociological survey was carried out in Western Siberia. "Where would you prefer to live?" was one of the questions asked. Less than one-third of the polled preferred the city. One out of every nine wanted to move closer to the city but not to the city itself. The majority—almost two-thirds of the suburban dwellers—would rather stay where they are. In other words, while many wanted to move into the city from the suburb, a new (and quite stable) migration pattern has evolved over the past 10 to 15 years—moving from the city towards the suburbs.

What are the suburban advantages? There are two positive factors. High growth rates in the suburbs come in the first place due to immigrants from the countryside. For them the one-roomly cottages are better since it allows them to run a small holding.

The second advantage consists in the favourable ecological environment. The vicinity of nature makes the suburb attractive both for the former country folks and for the city dwellers of several generations.

SCI-FI AND REALITY

Soviet science fiction has won general acclaim over a short period of time. This genre attracts ever more of this country's readers of popular writing, writes in PRAVDA the author Yevgeny Brudny. Now they readily include into their works the devices and themes of science fiction and fantasy. This can be explained by a concession to a trend or by artistic whim. The interest in science fiction, says the writer, is called forth by the global character of the processes now taking place in the world. The writer gets preoccupied with the fate of the human race.

Philosophical writings at all times have expressed the hopes and worries of mankind, the bright dreams of the future and the apprehensions of the misadventures and catastrophes occurring along the winding path of progress. The present level of science fiction is determined by its desire to remind humanity of the necessity to know how to use its knowledge to save the earth for our children and grandchildren, to teach the man to be kinder and better. This is why sci-fi stories often acquire special topicality.

Philosophical writings reflect ever more from specific engineering ideas drawing increasingly more on the humanities—philosophy, sociology, psychology and technological ethics. The weight is shifted from picturing possible technological achievements to the human being as such and socio-ethical subjects.

MUSIC HELPS UNDERSTAND BEAUTY OF THE WORLD

You say that music makes a man wiser, better and more considerate. Is this true or the serious, classical music? This question was put to the composer Rodion Shchedrin by a correspondent for the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA daily.

It does not matter whether the musical piece you are listening to is light or serious music. The most important thing is that it ought to give people what they can expect from genuine art—the feeling of the beautiful and of the elevated. Genuine music gives men a joy of understanding himself better, and it expands his awareness of the world.

Talking about music for entertainment, I should say that it is a sort of pattern. People need it because it makes life easier and prettier. However, music for entertainment does not fulfil what I call educational functions provided by the big art—this, of course, also carries the element of entertainment, but it is a secondary function.

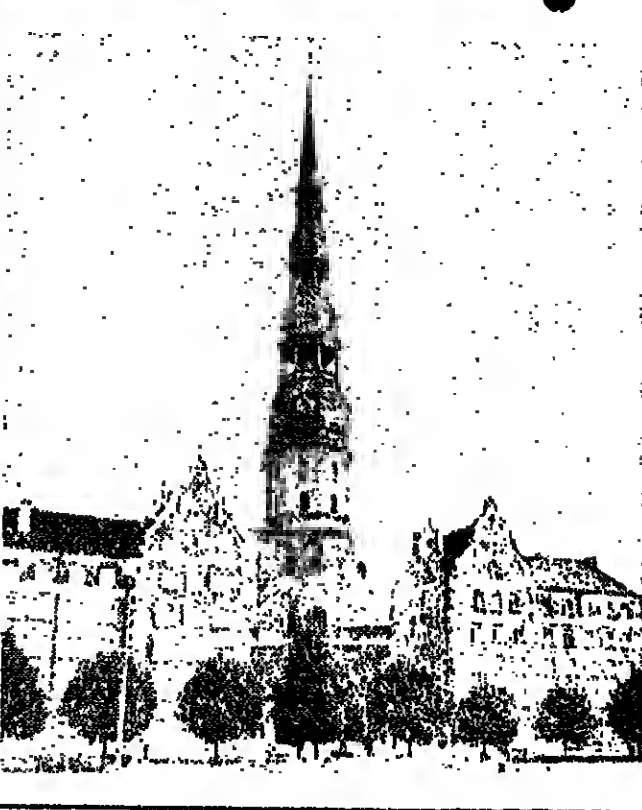
Places to visit

Every hour, the chimneys of Riga towerlock ring out over the city, while bells play the Latvian folk tune melody, "Rīga is Singing". The latter sound comes from the ancient tower of St Peter's Church.

The tower was first mentioned in 1209. Since then it has undergone major reconstruction work and its wooden walls have been replaced by stone ones. It burnt on numerous occasions. It is even said that one fire at the beginning of the 16th century was put out by Peter the Great himself. There are anyway entries to this effect in the chronicles of the Riga Magistrate. People from all over the country have taken part in restoring this remarkable church. Latvian architects were helped by the work of re-designing the bell by their Byelorussian colleagues. Metal structures made by the Ukraine were put together by specialists from Leningrad. The lift to the viewing gallery was made and installed by Muscovites, and the dome alone needed for the restoration work was brought from the Estonian island of Saaremaa.

From the viewing gallery at the top of the church in which visitors are conducted by lift a splendid view of the city and of the Gulf of Riga opens up. The gallery is 72 metres above ground level.

The ancient towers of Riga



A valuable gift

About two thousand books in Irish and the other Celtic languages have been presented to Moscow University by the Irish Society for Education and the Council of the Society for the propagation of the Irish language with the backing of the Irish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The gift includes textbooks, dictionaries, collection of verse as well as examples of ancient Irish literature.

Cultural relations between our countries have been developing over a long period of time. Works by Pushkin, Tolstoy, Chekhov and other Russian and Soviet classics are published in Ireland in Irish. And Soviet readers are well acquainted with the names of many Irish writers—such as Sean O'Casey, William Yeats, Thomas Moore, etc. There is a growing interest in the study of Celtic linguistic and literary problems, and the university philological department (teaches Modern Irish). The donation of books will serve as the basis of a Celtic philology study.

A desert drink

No visit is possible in Turkmenia without grape tea. Maybe the green tea indeed contains some substances which allow to endure better the heat? No, the drink is for the green and the black tea is picked from the same bush, says B. Bagirov of the Institute of Epidemiology and Hygiene of the Turkmen Ministry of Public Health.

The difference is made by the processing technology only, which is more thorough for the black varieties. Contrary to the widespread belief, there is twice as little caffeine in the green tea. It is less the human organism does not doping. In summer, two litres of tea per day. Had it been black tea, the workmen would be tired. Thanks to a coarser treatment, the green tea secures twice as much of vitamin C, a larger content of the group B vitamins and more tannin.

KAZAKH FOLKLORE

Two thousand folklores texts including songs, tales, limericks, proverbs and folk games have been collected in Eastern Kazakhstan by a Kazakh University student expedition. Many reflect the history of the Ural, Siberian, Kuban and Terek Cossacks, their migration to new lands and their life there.

Russians, Ukrainians and Byelorussians have been living for the past 250 years in friendship and agreement with the Kazakhs. Their folk poetry has been enriched by local traditions and habits. The plots of stories, fairy tales and songs not only generalize historic customs and traditions, but also well-known facts of cooperation between people of various nationalities. Future philologists have written papers explaining the origin of many geographical and Russian family names that are most often to be met with in Eastern Kazakhstan.

FLOWERS INSTEAD OF DRUGS

The 500,000th patient was admitted recently to the world's first resort where they concentrate on treatment by flower scent. Following their doctors' advice thousands of residents in Baku travel by municipal transport to the city's health zone with its hotbathes of flowers.

Physicians and scientists have identified about one and a half dozen plants whose scent has a favourable influence on the human organism. For the past twenty years Azerbaijan doctors have obtained beneficial results from treating certain types of cardiovascular disease, asthma, hypertension, neuritis and insomnia in this way.

Professional secrets of ancient architects

The ancient architects increased the earthquake-proof qualities of buildings by having resort to a special arrangement of supporting structures. This is the conclusion arrived at by the Armenian Republic's Research Institute for Construction and Architecture. They based their research on churches which have survived many tremors.

More than four thousand ancient architectural monuments are found in Armenia, many of which are quite well preserved.

Science and technology

FOLLOWING THE ROUTE OF THE FIRST ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

The "Admiral Vladimirsky" and "Faddey Bellingshausen" of the hydrographic service have left Sevastopol for a new round-the-world Antarctic expedition. The voyage of the Russian ships "Vostok" and "Mirny" to the South Pole under the command of 2nd rank Captain P. Bellingshausen and Lieutenant M. Lazarev is an important fact in the history of oceanic navigation. That was when the planet's sixth continent was discovered—the Antarctica. More than 160 years have passed since then but the continent has remained completely little studied until the present time.

The two ships, following mainly the route of the ships "Vostok" and "Mirny" will make a circle around the Antarctic. During the voyage the expedition will carry out an extensive research programme directed at ensuring gradually safety for the navigation in the region. The leaders of the expedition will be determined and the South Magnetic Pole will be located more exactly. The expedition will visit the Antarctic station Mirny and will make a landing on the East of the continent. The expedition will be led by Sevastopol next year in order for the expedition marking 200 years of this city.

GRANITE OUT OF SLAG

Residents of the city of Alma-Ata (capital of Kazakhstan) suggest looking for decorative construction materials not in the depths of the earth but in melting furnaces. They have managed to grow crystals of quartz-synthetic granite to be used for lining panels.

The material is not inferior to granite in strength while it is superior to it in some other properties. Granite can be given any colour while the range of the natural material is restricted. Industrial production of signs will be four times less costly than granite quarry production. It is made out of blast furnace slag and sand and no special equipment is required.

VIEWPOINT

Grain production: problems and solutions

Alexander ZHOLOBOV, Chief of General Department of Grain Crops, USSR Ministry of Agriculture

The Soviet Union is going to increase grain production by 50 million tonnes in the 80s. This will be enough to meet the growing requirements, and to set up reserves and export resources. The vitality of these plans is confirmed by recent experience.

Grain production in the Soviet Union increased (in average annual terms) by more than 50 per cent—nearly 25 million tonnes—over the past 15 years. Even in the most adverse years less than 25 per cent of the gross yield is enough to fully meet the country's needs for food grain. Though the country consumes today much more grain for livestock-feeding than before—over 120 million tonnes—there is yet in short supply. Herein lies one of the grain problems which is mentioned in the main Programme adopted at the May 1982 Party Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, as the key problem of Soviet agriculture.

In solving the grain problem, the Soviet Union mainly stakes not on drawing new lands into crop cultivation but on raising the productivity of ploughlands. The area of the ploughlands, used for grain farming (about 130 million hectares), has not expanded for many years and the average annual yield of grain crops is growing. Thus these yields increased from 10 to 14 tonnes per hectare over the past 15 years.

Today the USSR is taking important measures to further strengthen the material and technical base of the grain production which is already rather high. Plans are being made to double the amount of mineral fertilizers available. The increased use of their deliveries is seen primarily to the zones ensuring the greatest growth of grain production. Collective and state farms are now better supplied with highly effective herbicides and other means of chemicalization. The technology of harvesting, post-harvest processing and storing of grain is being improved.

A set of agrochemical measures which help obtain maximum yield has been mapped out (with due account of local conditions) for each agricultural zone and even district.

The Soviet Union is steadily producing about 100 million tonnes of wheat. This represents 25 per cent of the total world grain yield. It is of pretty high quality, this is especially true of hard and strong wheat grown in the eastern districts of the country.

The Food Programme envisages substantial structural changes in grain farming. Practically only growth in forage grain is expected. The areas sown to cereals (above all peas, lupines, soy, gram chick-pea, broad beans, lentils) in favourable zones will be expanded to the maximum. The production of sunflower, lucerne, rape—the sources of vegetable protein—will increase substantially.

Barley is the basic grain forage crop in the USSR. Its total sowing yield is much higher than that of spring wheat. A part of surplus production of wheel-grain, effected since long, is being used as fodder for cattle. Therefore, in the 70s the share area of barley grew from 20 to 33 million hectares by reducing wheat sowing. This tendency is now being intensified by the plan, purchasing prices of barley are rising to the level of wheat prices.

Theatre, Cinema and TV Stars



Valery LEONTIEV

One can understand those who express their first impression of Leontiev's performance on variety stage with one word: shocking. The singer is known for his heated rhythm of movement, splendid plasticity, graceful gestures, free and easy manner of singing. Valery's energetic voice seems bottomless; it produces an impression that there is no note that he cannot take. This helps the singer change the tenority of well-known songs and they appear as a new way. By the way, a blessed reader will be quite right to say that this kind of performance is not new and it is, for instance, used by the Greek singer Demis Roussos. But for Leontiev such vocal renovation is not an end in itself. His original gift lies in the combination of expressive voice with freedom of plastic movements.

Fame came to Leontiev unexpectedly. This happened soon after the TV audience of many countries watched his performance in the International Golden Orpheus competition in Bulgaria. He sang "Cosmic Dance"—a song by David Tukhachev. "Dance Hour on the Sun", the lyrics by well-known poet Samuil Kirsanov. Leontiev returned from this prestigious festival to Moscow with Grand Prix.

Unlike the singers who prior to work in the quiet of recording studios and own their success, to a great extent, to sound operators, Leontiev arrives for personal contacts with the audience. "I need a live contact with my listeners. I am trying to speak with them in the languages of music and plasticity about the most important things in a man's life—about love, happiness, a world without wars. I am trying my best so that what agitates me would agitate the audience as well."

Most audiences accept with pleasure the passionate boyish manner of Valery though he has long stopped to be a beginner; he has spent years working on the variety stages of different cities. One must have courage and persistence not to be content with "provincial popularity" or, in other words, "wide fame in narrow circles". Leontiev had many opportunities to leave his character after school he worked on a construction project, then was a postman, an apprentice at a signaller. At the age of 17 he began singing in an amateur group. Then he studied at the mining institute, worked at a mine and continued to be fond of art; Valery not only sang but also acted well in amateur plays. Gradually he accumulated acting skills which enabled the critics to say later on: "The range of his abilities is unlimited."

But Leontiev is not going to rest on laurels, realizing well that he cannot be a top variety singer without a well-thought-out repertoire. Valery directs his programmes, makes sketches of his costumes and sketches them, in short, he works hard on his stage image. Composers offer to Leontiev their new songs but not always he agrees to sing them; if it is not "in his line" he does not accept, waits and chooses...

"I need not only new dance compositions," says Leontiev, "but also philosophical ballads, dramatized songs with laughter and tears, jokes and tragedy. They must be sung vividly, with desperation, and sincerely..."

Boris BERMAN

NIKO PIROSMANI MUSEUM

Documents from the personal life of the famous Armenian artist Niko Pirosmani—who later developed into one of Georgia's leading artists—have come to light in the archives of the Transcaucasian Railway. Published for the first time, they have been included among the exhibits of the museum dedicated to Pirosmani's

work, which has opened in the centre of Tbilisi. The museum is located at 29 Niko Pirosmani Street in the house where the self-taught artist spent the last years of his life.

In a small, four-room under the staircase, the museum has managed to recreate the feel of

THE '78' THEATRE COMPANY FROM BRITAIN

"78" is the name of a British theatre company. In answer to our question as to what the name stood for, the leader, producer and playwright John McGrath, who handed me a badge bearing the theatre's emblem. Two large figures stand out against a red background with the following inscription round the rim: "78 per cent of the population of this country owns 84 per cent of the wealth."

Our company was set up for workers, and in this it differs from most other theatre companies in Britain, which have bourgeois leanings, said Elaine Marmion, the "78" theatre administrator. We have no theatre of our own, and we therefore give our performances in workers' clubs, for miners in Scotland and Wales, and for steel workers in the Midlands.

John McGrath has been leader of the company ever since it was set up in 1971. In 1973, the company split into two parts—one for England, and the other for Scotland, since when the two companies have been leading an independent existence, while pursuing ideal aims and having very similar repertoires.

However, there are certain ways in which they differ. The Scottish company, which has just visited us, regards as one of its main tasks the preserva-

tion of Gaelic, the ancient tongue spoken by the Scottish Highlanders. Music, singing and dancing occupy a major part in the plays performed by the company. Spectators jam-packed the auditorium of Friendship House in Moscow where the "78" Company gave its performances.

We have oil come to your country for the first time, continued Elaine Marmion, and therefore we are immensely interested in everything we see here. In the two days that we have been in Moscow we have been twice to the theatre. We are mainly interested in the "young" Soviet drama companies, and we were therefore particularly pleased with our

visit to the Musical Chamber Theatre and to Oleg Tabakov's Studio for drama students. A surprise was in store for us at the studio where the play "Jimmie Sheller" by Barrie Keeffe is an old friend of ours. We also perform his plays—an old favourite being "SUS". We greatly admire the skill shown by Tabakov's young actors who with the minimum of technical means and without make-up and stage props perform real miracles on their own tiny stage.

"78" will also visit Tbilisi and Leningrad where they will give performances of their programme, "Scenes and Songs". Alexander POPOV

MOSCOW'S CIRCUS ON ICE IN PARIS

Moscow's Circus on Ice is at present in France and giving performances in Paris at the Palais de Sports, near the Gates of Versailles. Every number of the company's colourful and exciting programme met with a standing ovation from the six thousand strong crowds which pecked into the stands. The French are well acquainted with the art of the Soviet circus. This year's programme is characterized by the daring pace at which the numbers are performed and the unusual combination of traditional circus genres, such as trained animals, clowns, juggling, etc., with skating.

The Soviet artists will continue their performances to Paris till mid-January of next year when they will go to Bordeaux.



The Byelorussian state dance ensemble, which was started nearly 25 years ago, has toured widely in the USSR and has also been a great success with audiences in Italy, the GDR, Hungary, Sweden, Finland and Latin America.

WHAT'S ON?

December 18-20

THEATRES

Belshof Theatre (Sverdlov Sq). 18 (mat) — Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin" (opera); 18 (eve) — Khrennikov, "Ballet of a Husar" (ballet); 19 (mat) — Dargomyzhsky, "The Stone Guest" (opera); 19 (eve) — One-act ballets: Svetlanov, "The Red Guelder Rose"; Mahler, "La rose malade"; Bizet, "Carmen"; 20 — Verdi, "Un ballo in maschera" (opera).

Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre (19 Pushkinskaya St). 18 — Khrennikov, "A Son-in-Law Without Kith or Kin" (opera); 19 (mat) — Tchaikovsky, "The Snow Maiden" (ballet); 19 (eve) — Khrennikov, "Storm" (opera); 20 — Gorkhovsky, "Hurricane" (opera).

FILMS

Presentiment of Love (Mos. Film Studio, USSR). A musical comedy — fairy tale for grown-ups. A tale for grown-ups. On Wednesday

USSR-FRENCH COOPERATION DEVELOPING

A large delegation of French industrialists led by the Secretary-General of the Franco-Soviet Chamber of Commerce, Jean Favier recently visited Moscow, seeking more contacts with Soviet organizations. This is the third such visit to the USSR in 1982, a "Moscow News Information" correspondent was told by Jean Favier. This time the group consists of 15 people representing 40 French firms. We want to involve French firms as much as possible in the cooperation with the USSR, thus diversifying economic relations between our countries.

The holding of the Agro-prom-1982 exhibition and recent visits to the Soviet Union of Mrs Edith Cresson, the French Minister of Agriculture, and Jean-Pierre Chevenement, Minister for Research and Technology, testify to the fact that France attributes a great importance to the development of its

economic and trade relations with the USSR. We hope that the exhibition in which almost 300 French firms participated will produce a positive effect. The visit of M. Chevenement is a sort of continuation of Mrs Cresson's visit. Other visits will follow. A session of the Greater Franco-Soviet Commission will be held in Paris next January. The chairman of the Commission, Minister of External Trade Michel Jobert and Minister of Foreign Trade of the USSR Nikolai Patolichev, will discuss the present state of the Franco-Soviet trade and the possibilities of eliminating the imbalance in their trade, as France needs to bridge the deficit. I think that the Franco-Soviet Chamber of Commerce has managed to organize its operations quite well and is capable of successfully helping French firms to establish closer contacts with the Soviet Union.

Alexander VOLKOV

AGRICULTURE IN THE FOCUS OF CMEA EXPERTS

The 57th session of the CMEA Standing Commission on Cooperation in Agriculture was recently held in Havana. Delegates from Yugoslavia and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen were present as observers.

The final communiqué emphasized that the Commission discussed proposals on better utilization of fuel and energy resources in the CMEA countries and more efficient uses of agricultural machinery. More cooperation in these spheres was envisaged.

The Commission analysed problems of cooperation in the development of Cuba's agricultural science and technology. It was stressed that scientists and specialists of the republic and other countries concerned are busy working on an all-weather technology of sugar cane irrigation, pest and disease control and the application of fertilizers.

The session approved the plan of the Commission's work for 1983-84. Special attention attaches to a better food supplies in the CMEA countries.

Major boost to Ethiopia's national economy

Ethiopia is building its first ever tractor assembly plant with technical assistance from the Soviet Union. When fully operational, it will help mechanize

Ethiopia's agriculture, producing three thousand tractors, 400 combined harvesters, 800 tractor-drawn mounds and other agricultural machines a year.

Contacts and contracts

© Last week in Moscow, the 10-millionth telephone produced by the Radom Telephone Factory, Poland, was handed over to a Soviet customer. The Polish Elektrim foreign trade association is the sole supplier of goods manufactured by the Polish electrical engineering industries. The association delivered its first telephone to this country 20 years ago.

© Under contracts signed between Soviet foreign trade organization Mashinimport and the Czechoslovak Fragonval enterprises, this country is to receive its first batch of trams of the new and highly economical T-3A model. At present, more than ten thousand Czechoslovak-hull trams are in operation in this country.

© A programme for scientific and technological cooperation between the USSR and Greece for 1983-84 was recently signed in Moscow. It provides for further development of ties in the power industry, geology, agriculture and public health.

© A recent trade protocol for 1983 between the USSR and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) provides for delivery to the PDRY of machines and equipment, oil products, construction materials, consumer and other goods. The PDRY will deliver refrigerated fish, fish flour, cotton and other items on the Yemen export list.

© A meeting of the permanent CMEA Commission on Cooperation in Transport has taken place in the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator. Special attention was paid to the realization of the long-term programme for expanding transport ties.

OLIVETTI ON THE SCENE AGAIN

Mens ranging from a huge processing centre to a miniature electronic computer have been on display at the exhibition mounted by the fourteen firms which belong to the Olivetti concern of Italy to acquaint Soviet specialists with their export products.

We highly appreciate the results of our cooperation with the Soviet organizations, said Olivetti's Vice-President Franco de Benedetti. We are looking for new points of common interest. We are dealing not only in mutual exports or imports. At the exhibition in Sokolniki Park we demonstrated complex based on the Soviet computer of the Sd-1403 type with peripheral installations of Italian make. This may arouse interest in third countries.

BON VOYAGE

The M/S "Stavitskiy" from the new series "Rybenka" ships has been built at the Kiev shipyards. It will navigate the Danube and the Dnieper with foreign trade cargo. The ship's port of registration will be Zaporozhye on the Dnieper.

By its loading capacity the new ship twice surpasses the ones currently cruising this river. The advanced equipment level of the vessel. A revolutionary system of control over draught has been developed. Holding operations are fully mechanized.

In the future the loading capacity of the ships of this series will be increased with the help of specially added barges. This will allow to ship over 7,000 tonnes of cargo.

АЭРОФЛОТ
Soviet airlines

ALL FOR CARS

Avto-detal-82 is the name of a show-symposium mounted in the Moscow office of the Finnish-Soviet chamber of commerce. 14 companies are displaying their latest car repair and servicing equipment, service stations equipment and articles of the car's interior.

This is our fourth such show, says H. Savolainen, spokesman for

the Finnish Foreign Trade Union. They have always noticed something new to our mutually profitable trade. The Nokia company, for instance, displays her latest winter and summer tyres, speakers, radiotelephones and industrial robots. Bomer has brought the country's largest range of motorcycles, pressurized car washing machines, etc. Finnish specialists will deliver reports on car safety equipment.



At the show.

Photo by Gennady Dubetkovsky

Twenty-five per cent of products for this country

Philately Belgica-82

From Moscow, several stamp collections have been sent for display at the First World Exhibition of the History of the Post, antiques and aerophilately, which is taking place in Brussels from December 11 to 19. The All-Union Philatelic Society sent to Brussels seven stamp collections including "Postmark Letters from Latvia" collected by Nikolai Yekimov of Riga, "Belgium's Aerial Post" by David Slonim of Tallinn, "From the History of St. Petersburg's Post" by Mantred Dobin of Leningrad, and "Russian Field Post in the First World War" by Vasilev Savin from the Ukrainian city of Ivano-Frankovsk.

Another collection for the display in Brussels — "Space in Soviet Postage Stamps" — was prepared by the Central Museum of Communications in Leningrad. All collections sent to Belgica-82 have been shown not once at several international exhibitions where they fetched a number of prizes.

Izvestiya YAKS